

Community Profile



Sumter has a colorful history stretching back nearly 300 years. In the 1740's, the first English-speaking settlers arrived to establish roots along the banks of the Wateree River. The "Carolina Backcountry" as it was then known, became a predominantly agricultural area called Craven County, later Claremont County. Sumter District was established on January 1, 1800. When the state capital was moved from Charleston in 1786, Stateburg, located on US 76/378 at SC 261, missed being elected the new capital by one vote. According to tradition, Stateburg was also considered as the location for the United States Military Academy, now at West Point.

The city of Sumter is the seat of Sumter County and the largest city, the eighth largest metropolitan area in the state of South Carolina. The city and county bear the name of General Thomas Sumter, the "Fighting Gamecock" of the American Revolutionary War, one of the models for the Mel Gibson character in the 2000 movie, *The Patriot*. In 1912, the city of Sumter became the first in the US to adopt successfully the council-manager form of government, which is still in effect today.

Located in the geographic center of the state, Sumter enjoys a moderate climate with mild winters. The average winter temperature is 45°F, and the

average summer temperature is 81°F. Average annual rainfall of 49.1 inches means plenty of sunny days to enjoy outdoor pursuits.

Sumter County's population is approximately 108,000, of which 47,000 live within the city limits. Shaw Air Force Base, 15 miles to the east, is home to the 20th Fighter Wing and offers a full range of services. Fort Jackson, the US Army's largest training installation, is less than an hour away.

Sumter offers all the services and amenities of a metropolitan community while embracing you with its small-town charm. Golf, fishing and hunting are some of the best in the region, and cultural opportunities abound. More than 120 clubs and organizations are waiting to share your interests, and our faith community of more than 100 churches means that worshipers in most major denominations can easily find a spiritual home.

Quality of life, affordability and location combine to make Sumter the perfect retirement home. This uniquely welcoming community proudly reflects 300 years of history, while racing fearlessly toward the future.

For more information, please visit us online at www.sumtersc.gov.